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Revenue; and the Chief Engineer has been asked to revise the instructions to Tank Restoration Scheme parties to include the investigation of ruined tanks. Increased provision is being made for the upkeep of minor irrigation works. The committee's recommendation in regard to the development of well irrigation by pumping with mechanical and electrical appliances, is under the consideration of the Board of Revenue. The transfer of the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal to the sole charge of the Executive Engineer, Kurnool, has been recommended by the Chief Engineer and orders will be passed shortly. The Chief Engineer's report regarding the five projects referred to in paragraph 7 of the Government Order on the committee's report is awaited. The committee's recommendations regarding the Tungabhadra project are being investigated.

(b) A preliminary investigation has been made by the Assistant Director of Geological Survey of India; and he has suggested a site. This is to be further examined as soon as seasonal conditions permit.

Landlord and Tenant.

Composition of the Malabar Tenancy Committee.

* 681 Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state what action the Government have taken in the light of the adjournment motion carried on 27th August last regarding the appointment and the composition of the Malabar Tenancy Committee?

A.—The question of adding two more representatives of tenants to the Malabar Tenancy Committee has been under the consideration of Government.

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU:—"May I know, Sir, why the Government have not taken immediate action?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"It is desirable to get the Committee's report. The Committee was appointed not only to get information but also to draft a Bill. When that Bill has been received, Government will consider what action is necessary."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU:—"Is it not for the benefit of the House that the Committee was appointed to gather information?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"The Committee have to report in the first instance to Government."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, from the hon. the Law Member whether the Malabar Tenancy Committee is now functioning?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Yes."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"If it is functioning, may I know why the question of adding two more representatives has been so long under consideration?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Certain representatives of the tenants were approached, but they refused to serve. Two others were then asked and one of them has accepted."

Mr. K R. KARANT :—" May I know if it is not a fact that the Committee is going to take evidence and if so, when the Government is going to make the appointments ? "

The hon. Mr. A Y. G. CAMPBELL : —" One appointment has been made and no more will be made."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know who the representatives were that refused to the offer ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I must ask for notice."

Panchayat Courts

Alleged irregularities in the election to the Pudupadi Village Panchayat Court.

* 682 Q.—Rao Sahib R. SRINIVASAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that at a panchayat court election held at a public place, a chavadi of Pudupadi village, Wallajah taluk, North Arcot district, the presiding officer arranged the Brahmans in a central hall, non-Brahmans at a back verandah and Adi-Dravidas at a distance of 38 feet from the north-west corner of the chavadi and out of the west-end limit of a Brahman street ;

(b) whether it is a fact that such an arrangement kept the Adi-Dravidas out of view of other communities, thereby depriving them of votes from non-Brahmans ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Adi-Dravidas were kept in the sun, standing for more than an hour ;

(d) whether it is a fact that while some of them went about to shelter and quench their thirst, the presiding officer suddenly called upon them to vote for their candidate ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the presiding officer allowed six non-resident non-Brahmans to vote ;

(f) whether a Government salaried officer—a branch postmaster—was one of the candidates ;

(g) whether objections were raised then and there to these irregularities and whether the presiding officer paid no heed ;

(h) why the Revenue Divisional Officer did not inquire into the objection petition submitted by the Adi-Dravida candidate, Rangaswami ;

(i) (1) the name of the presiding officer,
(2) the name of the Revenue Divisional Officer,
(3) the names of elected members and the number of votes each had, and
(4) the number of votes the Adi-Dravida candidate had ; and

(j) whether the Government propose to cancel the election and order a re-election ?